

CLAIMS

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1. Fastener delivery apparatus comprising a fastener delivery tube connected between a supply of fasteners and a setting tool of a fastener machine, the tube being of a cross-section having an internal cross-section configured to confirm substantially to the size and shape of the fastener to be used and connected to a source of pressurised gas, wherein the source of pressurised gas has a supply bore with an interior shape and dimension that is substantially equal to an interior dimension and shape of the delivery tube and wherein the supply of fasteners is connected to the delivery tube via a sealable passage that may be sealed so as to prevent leakage of gas from the delivery tube.
 2. Fastener delivery apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pressure of the pressurised gas is 2 bar or less.
 3. Fastener delivery apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein source of pressurised gas is disposed so that, in use, the path of the gas is coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the tube.
 4. Fastener delivery apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the sealable passage is sealable by a gate having an internal cross-section that is substantially matched in terms of shape and dimension to the internal cross-section of the delivery tube so as to reduce turbulence or drag to the flow of gas passing it.

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5. Fastener delivery apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the sealable passage is in the form of a ball valve that is rotatable between a first position in which an aperture in the valve is in communication with the supply of fasteners so as to receive at least one fastener and a second position in which the aperture provides communication between the source of pressurised gas and the delivery tube.
6. Fastener delivery apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the delivery tube is of a size such that, in use, there is a clearance between the fastener and the tube so as to provide a gas cushion around the fastener.
7. Fastener delivery apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the delivery tube has external orientation and/or location features.
8. Fastener delivery apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein there is provided an additional source of pressurised gas in the sealable passage that serves to clean the rivets of dirt or debris.
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9. Fastener delivery apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.